73. Two lacs twenty-two thousand six hundred and twenty-five cubic feet of firewood was exported to Bombay, Katiawar, and other Ports.

74. With a view to stimulating the export trade in firewood a monopoly of all the wood that can be exported from the forests in Lower Sind was given to a contractor for three years, who agrees to buy a minimum of 3,00,000, 4,00,000, and 4,50,000 cubic feet respectively during the three years currency of his monopoly. The wood to be cut and stacked by departmental agency and delivered on the bank of the river. Failing to remove the minimum quantity agreed upon for each year the contractor to pay royalty on the quantity not taken at Rs. 17 per stack of 1,000 cubic feet and Rs. 11 per stack of 675 cubic feet.

Chapter V.—Financial Results.

75. The total receipts and expenditure during the last two years are as follows :—

	Actuals, 1887-88.	Actuals, 1888-89.	Increase.	Decrease.
Receipts	6,32,302	4,15,867	...	2,16,435
Expenditure A, Conservancy and Works	3,54,985	1,85,884	...	1,59,101
Ditto B, Establishment	1,11,142	1,00,227	...	10,915
Total Expenditure ...	4,66,127	2,86,111	...	1,70,016
Net Revenue ...	1,66,175	1,29,756	...	46,419

76. A statement of receipts and expenditure is given below :—

Receipts.	1887-88.	1888-89.
I. Timber and other produce removed from the forests by Government agency—		
(*a*). Timber	73,923	63,864
(*b*). Firewood and charcoal ...	4,19,430	1,96,303
(*c*). Grass and other minor produce ...	934	1,749
II. Timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers, &c.—		
(*a*). Timber	7,269	9,391
(*b*). Firewood and charcoal ...	34,776	33,661
(*d*). Grazing and fodder grass ...	52,989	57,180
(*e*). Other minor produce ..	15,037	21,965
III. Confiscated, drift and waif wood ...	2	35
V. Miscellaneous	27,942	32,319
Total Receipts...	6,32,302	4,15,867
A. Expenditure, A, Conservancy and Works.		
I. Timber and other produce removed from the forests, &c.		
(*a*). Timber...	33,471	27,429
(*b*). Firewood and charcoal ...	3,07,248	1,44,390
(*e*). Grass and other minor produce...	670	569
II. Timber and other produce removed from the forests by consumers, &c. ...	12	9
VI. Live stock, stores, tools and plant ...	1,018	504
VII. Communication and buildings	407	760
VIII. Demarcation, improvement and extension of forests...	11,921	11,195
IX Miscellaneous	238	1,023
Total A, Conservancy ...	3,54,985	1,85,884
B.—Establishment.		
I. Salaries	90,363	80,452
II. Travelling Allowances	16,593	15,427
III. Contingencies	4,186	4,348
Total B ...	1,11,142	1,00,227
Grand Total ...	4,66,127	2,86,111

There is a falling off of Rs. 2,16,435 in gross, and Rs. 46,419 in net receipts, as compared with last year. It will be seen, however, that had the railway taken as much wood as it does in ordinary years the results this year, both gross and net, would have far exceeded those of any other year. The loss of revenue, due to the railway taking so little wood, is Rs. 2,43,057 and Rs. 74,470 net; under these circumstances it is a matter for congratulation that the better receipts under other heads have so nearly made up for the heavy loss on railway fuel.

General Remarks.

77. A Conference was held at Sukkur on 7th November, under the presidency of the Commissioner in Sind, at which officers of the North-Western Railway and myself were present, to take into consideration the question of the wood-supply for locomotive fuel to the railway. The Bombay Government are of opinion that the State railway does not pay enough for the wood, whereas on the other hand the railway authorities not only consider the wood too dear, but are dissatisfied with the arrangements under which it is delivered to them. They wish the Forest Department to maintain a very large stock of dry wood at each fueling station at its own risk and deliver the wood direct into engines, instead of the present arrangements by which periodical supplies are indented for by the railway and taken over when ready for delivery in bulk. The Conference lasted late into the afternoon and much correspondence was carried on for months after it was over. The net results are, that the railway have agreed to take wood for another year, that is, up to 31st March 1890, at the same rates and on the same conditions as heretofore, but having waived the restriction on proportion of babul wood in the total quantity of fuel supplied, they are to get a proportionate reduction in the price at stations where the extended use of babul fuel cheapens cost of delivery; so that the net profit to the Forest Department on the fuel supplied may remain the same. From the 1st April 1890, the wood supplied to the railway is to be paid for at the actual cost of delivery plus Rs. 12 per stack royalty. This arrangement has been accepted by the Director, North-Western Railway, under protest pending a reference to the Government of India.

78. I spent some time during the tour season in making an inspection of the fuel reserves taken up since 1878, in the Shikarpur and Jacobabad Districts. The condition of most of these reserves, for want of water, is very bad. They lie within the area protected by the Kashmor Bund, and all except one, on land that should be capable of irrigation by the Begari Canal and its branches, but owing to want of a sufficient quantity of water in the canals very little can be done to improve the condition of these reserves. Where the land is saline or has a sub-stratum of sand all tree growth has died out and it is quite bare and unproductive of wood or fodder and will remain so till the canal power of the district is increased. Where the land is sweet and good, and on which kandi and tree-tamarisk jungle exists, matters are more satisfactory. Both these kinds of trees send their roots to a great depth in the soil, and when once fairly established, are independent of surface irrigation. Jungle of this kind, during the present generation at any rate, can be worked for fuel fairly satisfactorily, as the trees cut down coppice well notwithstanding that they get no water beyond the little rain that falls in the district, and there is no difficulty in securing natural reproduction by simply closing the land to grazing by goats.

79. The condition of the river side forests in Upper Sind is also unsatisfactory from the damage done by forest fires in retarding reproduction and the restoration of tree growth on areas that have been worked out.

80. The river side forests in Central and Lower Sind I found in excellent condition, especially in the Hyderabad Division. Reproduction on areas that had been worked over was very satisfactory, and the general protection and absence of damage remarkable.

81. The records and accounts of all the Divisional Forest Officers were examined and found in a satisfactory condition, and I have much pleasure in reporting that the officers themselves have carried on their duties with most praiseworthy zeal and energy. Among the Range Forest Officers, I may give the following as having shown conspicuous zeal and ability in their duties:—

Forest Rangers ...	...	Peribdas. Kishinsing (since dead.) Rambux. Gobindbux. Parmanand.
Foresters ...	...	Wadhumal. Roopchand.

82. Mr. Parmanand, Accountant, and Mr. Lilaram, Head Clerk in the Conservator's Office, deserve to be mentioned for zealous and intelligent devotion to their work.

J. G. McRAE, Colonel,
Conservator of Forests, Sind Circle.